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Jaime Apodaca Sentenced to 20 Years in Prison In Connection with Assault & Death of Eric Garcia

(Austin, TX) 25-year-old Jaime Apodaca has been convicted by a jury in Travis County in connection with the death of his girlfriend's father, Eric Garcia. On February 14, Apodaca was found guilty of Manslaughter and Aggravated Assault (First Degree Felony & Second Degree Felony). He agreed to a 20-year sentence after the jury's verdict before Judge Tamara Needles in 427th District Court.

In the early morning hours of March 23, 2019, Austin Police responded to a 911 call that an assault was occurring at 8012 Bannock Lane in Southeast Austin.

During an argument, Eric Garcia asked Jaime Apodaca, his daughter Elisa's boyfriend, to leave his house. Apodaca left but returned to collect some of his belongings. He had been living in the Garcia home. While upstairs, Apodaca punched Mr. Garcia. The assault moved downstairs and eventually spilled outside onto the front lawn. Elisa Garcia and a family friend were also assaulted during the event.

The defendant went to his vehicle but turned around and ended up punching Garcia a final time. It caused Garcia to fall and hit his head on the concrete. Garcia suffered a fractured skull and brain injury. The 43-year-old Garcia eventually died from his injuries.

"The damage caused by the defendant in this case cannot be overstated. The victim's daughter looked on while her father died in the front yard. I am thankful that we were able to obtain justice for the Garcia family, and I am appreciative to the jury for their hard work and consideration," said Travis County Assistant District Attorney James Winters.

Winters was assisted in the Apodaca case by Travis County Assistant District Attorney Christy May.

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